

Managers' Corner

By Brad Eilts

Construction season is busy, challenging this year

The 2019 construction season is presenting many challenges. The quantity and difficulty of work scheduled will require the distribution division to be organized and productive to complete all of the projects planned.

More than 19 miles of temporary main needs to be installed to allow for water main replacement. Nine miles of temporary main has been installed already to allow several main construction projects to start. Another seven miles of temporary main is scheduled for the next couple of weeks to allow for additional projects to start.

Three main crews are working on pipe bursting main replacement projects on St. Peter Street, Thompson Ave., and Marthaler Lane. St. Peter Street has been very difficult, requiring coordination with downtown businesses including St. Joseph's hospital, traffic, utilities, and excavation in rock. A total of 2.2 miles of water main will be replaced using the pipe bursting method.

The goal for lead service replacement this year is to replace 500 lead services with copper. Two crews are currently assigned this task, resulting in 65 lead replacements so far this year. A greater emphasis will be given to lead replacements after the restoration dig out blitz is completed.

The dig out crew was assigned 287 tasks to dig out temporary restoration from this past winter and prepare the site for permanent restoration. The dig out crew is projected to complete this work by July 15. A concrete crew, two asphalt crews, and dirt

Manager's Corner continued on page 2

New dress code to allow flexibility under trial run

This summer the utility has implemented a trial change to our dress code effective Monday, June 17. This change will shift our policy to a new *Dress for Your Day* guideline applicable Monday-Friday.

We will evaluate how the change goes over the next few months and then decide if we think these changes can be permanent.

What Is Dress for Your Day?

Use good judgment when deciding what to wear every day, with a few basic guidelines. Consider what your workday looks like and take it from there.

For example:

If you have a big day including meetings with other organizations, you should wear something more formal such as dress pants, a dress, or even a tie.

If your day is more low-key, jeans and a nice polo or a sweater might be the answer.

The biggest change is that jeans will now be allowed Monday-Friday instead of only on Fridays. Jeans in a work setting should be dark blue or black. Jeans with holes and/or tears will not be allowed.

The list below contains examples of items that will remain unacceptable for everyone:

- Clothing, jewelry, or visible tattoos with potentially offensive graphics or words
- Tank tops or spaghetti-strap dresses unless covered by a jacket or sweater
- Sheer or revealing clothing (e.g., bare midriffs, short miniskirts, tube tops)
- Leggings unless worn with an appropriate length skirt or dress
- Shorts, sweats, workout clothes, or hooded sweatshirts

Dress Code continued on page 2

Construction season

[*Managers Corner continued from page 1*](#)

truck follow the dig out crew and excavation crews to make permanent repairs of sidewalks, curbs, driveways and street holes and boulevards.

The preventative maintenance crews have been making good progress on hydrant inspection, uni-directional flushing, and large-valve exercising even though they have been working shorthanded. New employees are scheduled to start in July to help this program.

July is expected to be even busier, since a contractor is scheduled to start cleaning and lining 1.5 miles of 6-inch cast iron main in the Selby/Griggs area on July 22.

Civil engineer II position open

The utility has an opening for a civil engineer II. The engineer will perform intermediate-level professional engineering and project management in the investigation, design, inspection, construction or maintenance of water utility projects and prepare requests for proposals, specifications, contracts and reports.

A Bachelor's Degree in civil engineering and two years of entry-level engineering experience or a Master's Degree in civil engineering with an emphasis in environmental engineering. No substitution for education.

Must have an Engineer in Training (EIT) certification or be licensed as a professional engineer.

Must possess and maintain a valid Minnesota class D driver's license or equivalent.

Must apply online by 4:30 p.m. on June 24.

Dan Palumbo, retiree, passes away

Dan Palumbo, retiree, and the father of Tony Palumbo, water utility supervisor, passed away on June 2 at the age of 70.

Dan worked for the city for 35 years and the water utility for 30 years. He started working for the city in 1970 in the public utilities-health division as a complaint

clerk. He was promoted to lab aide I in 1971 and lab aide II in 1972. In 1973, he transferred to the health office. In 1975, he took a position at the water utility as grounds man and was promoted to water shed laborer in 1976, holding on to both titles for several years. In 1979, he was promoted to ditch digger, and took a voluntary reduction in title in 1983 to water laborer, holding on to both of those titles. Later in 1983, he was promoted to water service worker-control desk, and then to a water serviceman I, but still held on to his previous two titles. He became a water service foreman in 1987, and changes in title meant that he also held the titles water service worker I and water serviceman I. In 1988, his title changed again to water service supervisor. In 1996, he was promoted to water utility mains supervisor. He held on to both of those supervisory titles until 2001. He retired from the water utility in 2005 as a water utility mains supervisor.

His funeral was Thursday, June 13, at the Church of St. Stanislaus in St. Paul. Visitation was held the evening before. His interment is at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Dress code changes for trial period

[*Dress Code continued from page 1*](#)

- T-shirts with slogans, large logos, or graphics

Due to the nature of their regular customer interactions, this change will not apply to engineering agree-

ments and business cashiering.

If you have any questions regarding these new guidelines, please contact your supervisor or Racquel Vaske.



Above left, Dan Palumbo on site while his crew installs an autofire connection in July of 2005. Above right, Dan Palumbo and Vinnie Bader, meter reader, disagree over a call Palumbo made as umpire during the softball game at the B-Dale Club in 2006.